

Fourth of July message from President Obama

July 4, 2012

Today, we reflect on the courage and tenacity of a small band of revolutionaries who defied an empire to declare "that these united colonies are, and of right ought to be free and independent states." We celebrate the very essence of America and the indomitable spirit that has defined us as a people for more than two centuries.

In many ways, the intrepid patriots who signed their names to our founding documents and risked their lives in the name of liberty might be surprised to see the progress of their grand experiment. We are a Nation that has fought for democracy, led revolutions in commerce, and sent a man to the moon - a Nation that lifts up the poor, cures the sick, and serves as a beacon of hope around the world.

Our success is possible only because of our Founders' central belief that through democracy and individual rights, ordinary people have it within their means to forge a country that is more just, more equal, and more free. This conviction has been carried forward and safeguarded by generations of heroes who have defended our principles at home and abroad - our brave men and women in uniform. Because of the extraordinary service and sacrifice of our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, and Coast Guardsmen, we are able to enjoy the freedoms we rejoice in on this occasion. And in their example, we recognize the fundamental American faith first tested by those revolutionaries - the faith that tells us no challenge is too great, and that through tests and through trials, we will always emerge stronger than before.

Yet, on this day we know America's journey is not sustained by our Armed Forces alone. It must be the calling and cause of every American to advance the tenets we all hold dear. On our Nation's birthday, let us resolve to carry on the improbable experiment that began 236 years ago; not simply declaring our principles, but living them; not simply celebrating our Union, but always working to perfect it.

I wish you all the best for a happy Fourth of July. May God bless and protect all those who serve, and may God bless the United States of America.

Barack Obama